



State Senator **NANCY CASSIS** *WORKING FOR YOU*

Significant reforms signed into law in 2009

In 2009, several pieces of legislation that I sponsored were signed into law. For example, my legislation adding accountability and transparency to the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) credits was signed by the governor in October.

The groundbreaking reforms are the first of their kind in Michigan. The historic action is a positive step toward ensuring lawmakers will have the factual, reliable data they need when making critical decisions and measuring the effectiveness of state programs – especially refundable tax credits.

My initiatives, Public Acts 124 and 125 of 2009, open up the MEGA credits and the tax certificates to legislative oversight. Without compromising the important principle of taxpayer privacy and confidentiality, this legislation would require the Michigan Department of Treasury to provide aggregate tax information by business category to the chair of the Senate Finance Committee, the chair of the House Tax Policy Committee and the directors of the House and Senate fiscal agencies.

Information now required to be shared with policymakers includes the actual amounts for the number of jobs created or retained and the actual value of the MEGA refundable tax credits claimed. A third bill of mine, PA 126, place an annual \$95 million cap on the growth of the MEGA credits beginning this year.

Both the public and lawmakers have the right to know where state tax dollars are going. Other states adopted transparency with outstanding results. I am proud we finally brought that accountability and openness to Michigan and look forward to bringing transparency to all of state government.

Three resolutions approved by the Senate

The state Senate approved three resolutions I introduced in 2009. The first one, Senate Resolution 70, was adopted to urge the governor to implore President Obama to grant Michigan a two-year waiver from federal matching requirements for bridge and highway projects. Good roads support economic development and jobs.

Our economy has been devastated more than any other state by the collapse of the domestic automobile industry – resulting in more than 700,000 lost auto industry-related jobs over the past few years. By waiving the local match requirement for two years, thousands of new road and bridge construction jobs will be created – assisting our ailing local governments and improving our critical state infrastructure.

Senate Resolution 92 was adopted in October to recognize the month as National Window Covering Safety Month in an effort to raise awareness of the hidden danger of window blind cords.

The resolution was in memory of Isabela Grace Nagara, who was unfortunately and so sadly strangled by a window blind cord in June 2009 while taking a nap. She had just turned two years old. While remembering Isabela, I introduced SR 92 to bring attention to this overlooked source of harm to help protect Michigan children from suffering a similar tragedy.

Isabela's parents, Wes and Beth Nagara of Commerce Township, and her uncle, Ron Nagara, were in the Senate gallery when SR 92 was approved.

My third resolution, Senate Resolution 93, proclaimed November 9-13 of 2009 as “School Psychology Week in Michigan.” As a former school psychologist, I know that a child’s mental health is closely linked to their successful learning and development. School psychologists are an important resource to school staff, parents, and students.

Sign up for 2010 updates

Continued effort to improve contact in 2010, I will step up my contact with the constituents of the 15th district my increasing contact via my E-blast Updates. I will notify those on the list not only with periodic updates on what is happening in Lansing but also when I send out a press release, do media interviews and release my cable show which can all be viewed on my website.

To sign up for my E-blast Updates please contact my office or go to my web site at www.SenatorNancyCassis.com. Move down to the bottom of the main page and click on “Subscribe to my E-News Update”. Follow the step by step directions and submit your information to be added.

Contact Information:

The E-News Update by Senator Nancy Cassis is designed to provide residents and organizations with a periodic update of my activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact my office.

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